

by which to connect the name with the plant, and indeed there will be such charm in the association that it will never fade from his memory. I will set forth a few instances:

"*Bauhinia* has two-lobed leaves, or two as it were growing from the same base—being called after the noble pair of brothers, Bauhin.

"*Scheuchzeria* is grassy and alpine, being called after the famous pair of brothers, Scheuchzer, of whom the one was eminent for his knowledge of grasses, the other for his knowledge of alpine plants. . . .

"*Linnaea* was named by the celebrated Gronovius and is a plant of Lapland, lowly, insignificant, disregarded, flowering but for a brief space—from Linnaeus who resembles it."

Finally, lest our horticultural friends should take too much heart from Linnaeus' gibes at "ell-long," "difficult," and "unpleasant" names, let them note that he regarded (at this time) all varieties as monstrosities, and on horticultural names delivered himself as follows: "Botanists differ from florists in their conception of varieties in this respect: that the former bestow varietal names by way of defining and expressing in words some unique characteristic in the variety: and this seems to me a fitting proceeding: but the latter do reverence to the objects of their worship with names showing their devotion, lest anyone with unwashed hands should approach the mystery of their noble art."

What would he think today?

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An Unstable *Dicentra*

P. J. VAN MELLE

In a number of gardens, including the Thompson Memorial Rock Garden of the New York Botanical Garden and the Lown Memorial Garden at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., *Dicentra oregana* Eastw. has become larger statured, less glaucous leaved, and pink-flowered, a condition in which it appears to be indistinguishable from *D. formosa*. This would seem sufficient grounds upon which to challenge the specific standing of *D. oregana*.

As introduced into cultivation from southern Oregon, this creamy-flowered, glaucous-foliaged plant called *D. oregana* is an undeniably charming thing, by no means easily established in Eastern gardens, where it is likely either to dwindle slowly or, if it "takes hold," to revert to the condition indicated above. Reports of "pink *D. oregana*" in Oregon and Washington gardens suggest that the reversion takes place in that part of the country as well. Examination of reverted material reveals no differential characters sufficient to distinguish it from the somewhat variable *D. formosa* for it has the spreading rhizome, the form of stigma, the short-spreading outer petals, the scarcely protruding inner ones, and flower color characteristic of this species. Since the plant known as *D. oregana* apparently reverts rather easily to *D. formosa* it appears, therefore, to be only a phase of this and not worthy of specific rank. The following nomenclature change is therefore suggested:

DICENTRA FORMOSA (Dryand.) Walp., forma *oregana* (Eastw.) van Melle, comb. nov.

Dicentra oregana Eastw. Proc. Cal. Acad. Sci. **20**: 144. 1931.

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POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y.

An Introduced Ladysthumb from Asia

HAROLD N. MOLDENKE

During recent years a good bit of interest has been aroused among local botanists by the appearance and rapid spread of an Asiatic weed, the bristly ladysthumb, ***Persicaria longiseta*** (De Bruyn) Moldenke, comb. nov. [*Polygonum longisetum* De Bruyn in Miq., Pl. Jungh. 307. 1854]. As far as I am aware, it is not listed in any of our current manuals or local floras, although, as will be shown below, it has been in the country for at least thirty-one years. The first published record of its occurrence in America seems to be by Harger *et al.* in their "Additions to the flora of Connecticut" published in Bull. Conn. Geol. & Nat. Hist. Surv. **48**: 43 (1930). This was followed by a discussion by Dr. S. F. Blake entitled "*Polygonum caespitosum* var. *longisetum* in the United States" in